The CRICKET MATCH
by Orvil Welch

Stringfellow bounds downstairs to great his father CHRIS SHAW straightening his tie in the hallway mirror next to the coat rack .

CHRISTOPHER SHAW Have a good time with the language class at the museum yesterday son, I didn't loose any of my students and they all followed you back to the coach.
STRINGFELLOW SHAW You know me dad I have my way with the shellas and I had the most amazing dream next to the Chinese section.
SHAW While you're looking at the china plates.
STRINGFELLOW Yes exactly. Are you going to be at the cricket match later on?
CHRISTOPHER Yeah, me and me and Sally will be there.

Stringfellow walks past china ducks on the wood chip Magnolia walls and walks down the garden path past tylips and chrysanthemums and through the gate then down the street entering a Maze of semi detached houses to the suburbs .He crosses the street at ELMS AVE to the woods where he traverses a muddy path through oaks, elms and shrubberies to the lair.
He charges down the steep incline to the bottom of the valley where tree trunks and oil barrels are assembled in a circle and the rest of the Trafalgar Gang are assembled.
DAVID MANNING Glad you're here as me mam will pick us all up in half an hour.
MICHAEL SULIVAN How was the language school .
STRINGFELLOW SHAW Luckily I took them to the china section of the british musium, and the plates calmed my nerves, they talk BS .
ANN FITZGERALD The reviews of Suffering Suckatach have been very positive throughout the foundation. It says so in this Keen as Mustard magazine.
LORA DENHAM Yes, it's the same in the Merry Wives of Windsor, The school Rag.
MICHAEL SULLIVAN Only 'cause you're the editor.

STANLEY RATCHET Time we get to the cricket match then lads .

They walk out of the lair through a path past OAKS, ELMS and wild grasses out of the forest and walk along the street to the corner where Gardener's mam is waiting with the minibus and they clamber in .
STRINGFELLOW SHAW Got the kit ready for our cricket match then Penelope.?
PONELOPE GARDNER Mark Greenstreet just texted saying that.The cricket pitch is ready.And you should be able to run like the clappers.

ELESWARE Gilbert and Gloria Ratchet enter the.glass fronted entrance of the TRAVELOG and over a yellow tiled carpet to a mauve reception desk , where ELINOR is booking everyone ,over her horne rimmed prescription glasses .

GILBERT I can't tell you how much I';ve been forward to this reunion , get you away from your woman's guild.
GLORIA And we don't want to be under that nice solar panel engineers feet all weekend while our panels are being put up and wired into the mains.
GILBERT Where's that receptionist typical lack of efficiency i could strangle him with my bear hands .
GLORIA Do Stanley good having the run of the house while we are away.
Above the mauve reception desk hangs a print of Earl gray .
ELINOR I'll have Manuel help you with your luggage MANUEL.
ELINOR Take mr & mrs RATCHET up to there rooms and come back down.
MANUEL What did your last slave die of Elinor>
ELINOR Exhaustion and **lockjaw**
MANUEL WALK THIS WAY
GILBERT I would but the old shrapnel wound I received in BURMA in 55, won't let me .
MANUEL Have you ever been to NEWTOWN before, there are great attractions for the family.
Manuel picks up the luggage and escorts the couple along the hallway to the left of reception ,flower prints adorn the walls leading up to a side elevator.
GLORIA After all that gardening I've done I could do with a rest.
The elevator arrives and they pile in.

At the ARNDALE CENTRE Sir RICHARD RTICHARD is mopping up a carton of orange juice when MARTA HARI walks past in a pretty floral dress and nylons with three inch heals.
The smell of fried food leads her to the other exit where dickeys dinner has served a healthy trade of hungry people and she lets a gent open the door for her.

MART HARI Brexit 50/50
99 not from where I'm standing 99 says the dapper gentleman.
When she enters the café MIGHTY WHITE gets up saying " here comes the shella, rack another stack on the grill dickey and we'll have two fresh coffee's
MARA TARI let me take the wait off, me pins are killing me.
MIGHTY WHITE PARK YOUR POSERIOR DOWN HERE WHILE I POINT PARCY AT THE POSALAIN DARLIN>

MARTA starts to check her FOUNDATION in her little compact while giving a wink to dickey behind the serving table,as Mighty white returns from the lavatory and sits down.
MIGHTY WHITE Get the teas in and I'll tell you about the Ozzy from parth with a very wide girth who lifted his yashmack and showed his digery doo.
MARTA HARI Yes and you can clean your teeth first or you ain't getting the full unit.
MIGHTY WHITE Yes dear but your getting the full unit.
MARTA HARI Anyway what brings you back down to my neck of the woods" she says while stearing her coffee.
MIGHTY WHITE I'm down for the TRAFALGAR GANGS Cricket match against coal hill comprehensive tomorrow .
MARTA HARI Yes they'll be round my Gilberts house while he's over at the TRAVELOGE.
MIGHTY WHITE , I might give them a knock Just to confirm arrangements for the match. , You should have see how Michael tackled that defender for the Stretch Armstrongs last week My sound engineer has booked into a hotel and tonight it could be just you and me love what do you say.

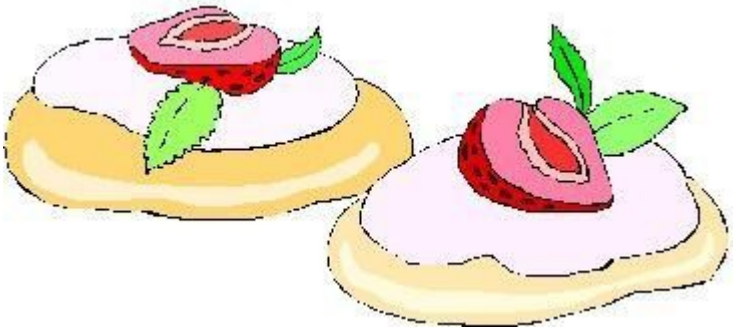
They get up and leave the café and walk back up the main aisle of the ARNDALE CENTRE past the bargin bed centre where Sir Richard is removing chewing gum from one of the head boards
DICKY dinner NOTHING to be scared of , so come back soon.
The next day Mighty white wakes up next to MARTA and collects his blanks from the bedside cabinet.
MIGHTY WHITE Where are my strides marta. I've got to catch my sound recorder before the match this afternoon, see the gang take on the comprehensive.
MARTA Yes they should still be over my Gilberts house overseeing the solar panel engineer.
MIGHTY WHITE Can I pick you up at 1200 and take you over the wreck for the cricket match .
later that evening at the TRAVELOG.....
The RATCHETS ARE CHECKING OUT OF THE HOTEL AND **walk straight past reception . There new friend Manuel is still propping up the desk chatting to ELENOR as they walk acrossthe twin pile AXMINSTER berge and lemon carpet and down the steps,**

The porter takes luggage outside while Gloria checks out and is soon joined by her husband at the reception desk.
GILBERT RATCHET I found this old brochure for **TRUST HOUSE FORTE** in the bathroom.
He passes it to the receptionist
ELINOR This old thing could become a collectors item sir. You can keep it if you like. Granada bought out the forte hotel group and renamed us **TRAVELOGE** IN 1991. This old thing must have been at the bottom of a supply cupboard somewhere.
GLORIA RATCHET That was when the USSR was disbanded in Russia.And we moved from bars of soap to liquid hand soap.

They **then exit through the glass doors into the high street .A pigeon flys down from a street lamp and starts pecking at a sesame seed bun dropped from a BIG MAC .As a couple pass them with a push chair half way along Gilbert says " The majority of these guests are business people in this hotel you know Gloria. "**
GILBERT That's my girl and I hope the solar panels are up despite the bad weather we have been having.
They get a taxi back to there house in the suburbs of NEWTOWN , and when they pull up outside they are delighted to see the large solar panels on the red tiles roof of there semi detached house.
GILBERT RATCHET Glad that spot of rain we had didn't stop that Eric from getting the solar panels up.
GLORIA Yes I met his wife at the neibourhood watch last week and she is very nice dear, I'll have to invite them both round for dinner one evening.
As they walk in the front door they call out for there son Stanley.
GILBERT RATCHET Stanley are you there, I bet the young scamp is in the garage playing with that railway set of his.
STANLEY RATCHET It's alright dad we are out here soaking up the sun.
Gilbert and Gloria walk out through the kitchen door to the back garden where some of the gang are lying on the neatly cut grass.
Jeramy fitzoliver Anyway we are meeting stringfellow at the lair in an hour.
GRAHAM So the game against the local comprehensive school is set for this afternoon, and we trust you two will be in attendance.
GORIA I have a meeting with CONSTANCE at the town hall in an hour gilbert.
GILBERT RATCHET Do you realy darling what fun, and I'll just potter around in the flower bed until the game then shall I.
ANN FITZGERALD Yes I cant sit around here all day lets get out of here.

As soon as he is alone in the house he walks straight into the living room where sheeba the tabby cat is curled on the sofas and reaches for the phone.
At polly's house of ill repute
MARTA HARI Hello polly's houser of ill repute how can I help you . do you want to two up two down or the double entandra.
GILBERT RATCHET Thanks Marta you're a doll I'll be around in twenty minutes.
latter on.
Gilbert steps back from the washing machine saying [. Well let that be a lesson to you Marta I've still got the magic touch.]

MARA HARI Yes Gilbert , though it’s the same old wand , get your coat on and lets get to the recreation ground you can escort me to the cricket match
GILBERT RATCHET I'll see you there ,i've got to meet GLORIA outside the town hall .



Gloria Ratchet leaves the town hall and runs across the road and heads for the bus garage while phoning Gilbert.
GLORIA RATCHET Hi gilbert I’ve just finished a mass debate on the use community hall’s and asking to step up neighbourhood watch when the lights went out and we had to wait for an electrician.
GILBERT Yes and these solar panels aren’t working so I was thinking of getting a sparks in , can you come home so I can get to the recreation ground and see our boy play cricket. I’ll be gone by the time you get here.
GLORIA RATCHET If the electricity is on or you'll have to stay and fix it .r
AT NEWTOWN RECREATION GROUND
POLELOPE GARDNER drops the gang off outside Newtown recreation ground and they take out the cricket bag from the boot of the car and start setting up .
Mark Green St. strides over from.From the middle of the green.Michael Sullivan carry the crickets.Bag.
MARK GREENSTREET I've made a perfect rectangle.A very short grass.So you should be able to run like the clappers.

A VW Camper van parks up on the lose gravel carpark at the front next to PONELOPE GARDNERS CAR

MIGHTY WHITE You all ready for a game of cricket then Ponelope.

POLELOPE GARDNER The team is changing in the toilets and I've got my boy setting up the playing field.

MIGHTY WHITE You her that Steven , you can phone Katie over at MOSS STUDIOS and tell her we are ready to take over her radio station .

A LARGE coach pulls into the car park and the boys from Coal Hill Comprehensive come out and line up at the perimeter of the playing field. There head teacher walks over to Ponelope with his assistant Gertrude.

STEPHAN PLYMSOL Where's the umpire

IAN CHESTERFIELD Good morning have my bunch turned up,

The gang leave the lavatory and head straight for the field , and start to help Jeramy and David.

They all stroll over to the Cricket pitch Just as the stumps and bales are being set up and the Trafalgar Gang come out of the changing roomsSit on benches near the tennis courts.

IAN CHESTERFIELD One of my ancestors said an Englishmans stride is a yard ,Let's have the first batters up and I'll get them into position.Its 20 overs and you can bat first old man.

Ian strides purposefully onto the cricket pitch and over to STRINGFELLOW SHAW and his gang .

IAN CHESTERFIELD So I've decided your fielding and i'm the umpire so which of you want silly mid off.

JAMES GRAINGER That will be me.

The audience has arrived and Gilbert ratchet is passing the tennis courts with Marta Hari and coming over to stand on the perimeter next to car park.

Marta hari waves at the sports presenter in his vw as he starts his show for moss radio

MIGHTY WHITE Steve can you call me when the game starts I have to see that shella over there .

The sports presenter leaves the vw camper van and walks over to the side of the pitch where a crowd is gathering for the game.

Marta Hari You better start the show GEORGE, some of me regulars can get jealous .

GILBERT RATCHET walks over to them

MARTA HARI Don't you go on the rampage Gilbert this is my friend.

MIGHTY WHITE And any friend of marta's is a friend of mine put it there pall.

GILBERT laughs and shakes hands with him before hitting him in the stomach.Mighty white doubles up and then sweeps him with an upper cut which sends him flying backwards. He then shoves him onto the grass.

MARTA HARI Stop it both off you help somebody.

STEPHAN PLYMSOL comes bounding over with his team and looks on at the pair rolling around on the grass .

The two men are pulled up when MARTA HARI slaps Gilbert and walks away calling them immature imbeciles .

MIGHTY WHITE Now don't just leave dear, I was hoping to take you out tonight.

Stanley comes running over from the other side of the pitch and asks his dad .

GILBERT I was just defending my ladies honour as he called her a tart

STANLEY She is a tart dad, come now lads isn't she .

He appeals to the audience gathered round.
Some of the boys nod there head.
IAN CHESTERFIELD You two settle your differences we have a game to play.
TUCKER JENKINS Yes lets have a show of hands to see if MARTA HARI is a tart.
MIGHTY WHITE Do that again Gilbert and you'll regret it.
TOD SLAUGHTER It seems nearly unanimouse
MIGHTY WHITE Well then old son you should listen to these boys here and stop getting jealous.
STANLEY RATCHET Yes dad stop getting jealous of a prostitute when you've just come back from a TRAVELOGE HOTEL with mother.
Gilbert swallows his pride and shakes Mighty White's hand.
MIGHTY WHITE Alright apology accepted mate I have to do a program.

He runs to the car park and jumps up into the front passenger seat, grabs the microphone from his sound engineer.
MIGHTY WHITE Here we are again at the recreation ground for what promises to be a great match between two young teams of athletes. So stand by all true believers for a match to remember .
STEPHAN PLYMSOL COME ON UMPIRE START THE GAME
The coal hill boys start singing as they make it to club house,
Michael Sullivan is the bowler and as the game starts Stringfellow shaw gives him a pep talk.
STRINGFELLOW SHAW . Now run them leg before wicket .
LORA DENHAM what's that then.
IAN CHESTERFIELD LBW
TODD SLAUGHTER Couldn't you tell me before the bowler through .
STANLEY RATCHET No you wait till the bowlers thrown and then get them out LBW
GRAHAM You've spoilt it get off the pitch
MIGHTY WHITE And we have the first batter up for Coal Hill and he waits at the creece as our Michael bowls a Yorker. The ball bounces short of the crease and he hits it high into the air straight into David Gardners hands.
MIGHTY WHITE That's the first man out in the first over and the second young man comes up to bat.
For COAL HILL SCHOOL just as THADIUS MOONtaps the ball sending it along into the hands of DAVID MANNING ,who throws it to TIM CURRY just as THADIUS makes it to the other end .
THADIUS ans STANLEY MOON build up an impressive 70 runs for coal hill school .
MIGHTY WHITE IT'S THE TENTH OVER AND COAL HILL have 60 runs. It's anyones game and the TRAFALGAR GANG are putting up a solid defence fielding. At half time the score stands at 150 runs all out and we break for refreshments and a pep talk at the TRAFALGAR CAMP.Christopher has arrived when the sports commentator comes and says hello.
CHRISTOPHER SHAW This has turned out well for our boys and will put them in good spirits for there next match with the PORTERS AND SORTERS from the post office.
MIGHTY WHITE Faired income mate, though we shall find out from the post master tomorrow in the pub.
IAN CHESTERFIELD comes over and joins them saying " are you ready for round two ,as the coal hill boys are about to take the field."

MIGHTY WHITE Alright old son, if you can tell me how a litmus test can save us from halapecha I'll buy you a pint tomorrow.
IAN CHESTERFIELD A litmus test can save you from male pattern balding if your about to put sulphuric acid on your bonce.
The sports commentator excuses himself and walks back to the camper van .
The Headmaster of Cardinal wolseys has turned up with Cinthia his wife just as the second half starts and as LORA is first up for batau.
MIGHTY WHITE And the Trafalgar gang are up for bat and first it's the shella lora taking the bat and waiting for a run up from coal hills star bowler.
She takes a wild fling and clips the ball sending it over her head where it is caught by the wicket keeper.
MAURICE DENHAM Unlucky lora come over here with us, we have good new for you .
MIGHTY WHITE Next in is our own Jeramy Fitzoliver with Tim Cross batting to stay in the game.

The ball bounces to the side and he sweeps low with the bat sending it careering over the pitch and sending the fielders running. He shouts run for your life and the two sprint the length of the pitch for two runs.
MIGHTY WHITE This impressive twosome rack up a healthy 50 runs before being caught leg before wicket by an impressive ball from TODD SLAUGHTER for COAL HILL SCHOOL.
STEPHAN PLYMSOL is standing with our headmaster observing the match with Cynthia Denham . Lora has joined them and is taking her cricket pads off.
STEPHAN PLYMSOL IT LOOKS LIKE MY BOYS ARE BEATING YOURS MAURICE.
MARICE DENHAM QUITE right STEPHEN though a successful innings for my boys and we still have six more batters.The good news lora is that I have enrolled you at THE TRUSCOTT DRIVING ACADEMY .
LORA DENHAM Another of your old university chums willing to do their bit for the Trafalgar Gang.Thanks, Dad.
LORA DENHAM Let's just hope we win dad, our Jeramy has been wanting to beat his cousin and the COAL HILL boys. He's been going on about it all year.
MIGHTY WHITE It's the 15th over and the gang are on 100 when STRINGFELLOW SHAW come in to bat. He signals Michael and lines up at the crease. STANLEY MOON has taken over as bowler and he bowls a Yorker which bounces short. Stringfellow makes a resounding contact with the ball sending it towards the boundry and starts sprinting up the pitch . They make five runs before the ball is thrown to the wicket keeper , who nocks the stumps off.
He is all out for five and ANN FITZGERALD comes into bat. What an exciting game we have here on MOSS RADIO. And it's still anyone's game.

STANLEY MOON sends a fast ball at ANN FITZGERALD and it clips the edge of her bat and bounces over the wicket keeper. A fielder dives for it and misses and it carries on towards the boundary.
STEPHAN PLYMSOL Me and Mr Denham are off to my private members club tomorrow , isn't that right Maurice.
MARICE DENHAM After I have enrolled our girl here at the TEACHER TRAINING COLLEGE me and the wife will meet you in town STEPHEN.
MIGHTY WHITE It's the 18th over and the gang have 135 needing just fifteen more runs. This exciting match could go either way and the crowd cheer as Ann swings her bat and sends the ball flying.

Michael is caught leg before wicket and Ann is bowled out for 20 runs. In the last over David Gardner and his younger brother Sam take the field. .

PONELOPE GARDNER It’s down to my boy’s know to save the day for THE TRAFALGAR GANG.

MIGHTY WHITE It’s the last two balls of the game and they need five runs. The bowler throws the ball and young Sam sweeps the bat up missing by a hairs breath. Everying hangs on the last throw and the ball is thrown straight at the wicket bouncing in front of the bat where it is hit hard by Sam sending it over the heads four fielders to the boundry for a six.

It’s all over and the gang have won.

THE TRAFALGAR GANG AN ENGLISHMANS STRIDE IS A YARD.

SAM GARDNER I am the stone faced killer.

They lift Sam up on their shoulders and take him over to the car park where the players gather and congratulate him.

TUCKER JENKINS Well done son you won the match.